United Nations

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

General Assembly
Official Records • Forty-ninth Session
Supplement No. 37 (A/49/37)

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held its first substantive session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 22 April 1994.

2. The session was opened by Ms. Pamela Mboya (Kenya), Vice-Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee. She reported that the Secretary-General had been notified of the withdrawal of Canada from the chairmanship of the Committee. The Committee then elected Mr. Martti Lujanen (Finland) Chairman of the Committee by acclamation. The Chairman made an opening statement. A summary of his statement is given in annex III, section A.

3. The Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. W. N'Dow, made a statement; a summary appears in annex III, section B below. Ms. E. Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General, also made a statement; a summary appears in annex III, section C below. The session was then inaugurated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. His statement appears in annex IV.

B. Attendance

4. The following States were represented:

Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Benin
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Germany
Greece
Haiti
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Malawi
Maldives
Mauritania
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Senegal
Slovenia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	United States of America	Zambia
United Republic of Tanzania	Venezuela	Zimbabwe
	Viet Nam	
	Yemen	

5. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations University (UNU), the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) were represented.

6. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The World Food Programme (WFP) was also represented.

7. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Housing Fund, European Community, League of Arab States (LAS) and Organization of African Unity (OAU).

8. A delegation from Palestine attended the session.

9. A representative of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania attended the session.

10. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session: Baha'i International Community, Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlements, Habitat International Coalition, Hassan Fathy Institute for Construction Workers, Institut de Recherche sur l'Environnement, International Academy of Architecture, International Architects Designers for Social Responsibility, International Council for Local Environment Initiatives, International Council of Women, International Real Estate Federation, International Society of City and Regional Planners, International Union of Architecture, International Union of Local Authorities, International Union of Tenants, International Urban Development Association, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Programme Solidarité Habitat, World Federation of United Nations Associations and Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action. A representative of the City College of New York (Architectural Department) attended the session.

11. The following organizations were present at the session: Association Internationale d'Educateurs pour la Paix, Caritas International, Centre d'Etude pour Amelioration d'Habitat dans le Tiers Monde, Citynet, Environmental Quality International, Fédération National des Travailleurs de la Construction, Habitat-Cuba, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Federation of Building and Wood Workers, International Rural Housing Association, Pathways to Peace, Rooftops Canada Foundation and the University of Geneva.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 April, the Preparatory Committee considered its agenda and the organization of work. The provisional agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Preparations for the Conference: progress report of the Secretary-General.

3. Preparations at the country level.

4. Preparations at the regional and global levels.

5. Draft statement of principles and commitments.

6. Draft issue papers and the draft format for the programmes and subprogrammes of the plan of action.

7. Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee.

8. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

9. Adoption of the report of the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

13. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee established two committees of the whole and allocated agenda items to them as follows:

Committee I: Agenda items 3 and 4;

Committee II: Agenda items 5 and 6.

14. Committee I held seven meetings, from 12 to 22 April, and Committee II held four meetings, from 13 to 22 April. The recommendations of both committees have been incorporated in the present report.

D. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

15. The Preparatory Committee adopted the present report at its 6th meeting, on 22 April.

II. DISCUSSIONS

A. Preparations for the Conference

(Agenda item 2)

16. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd to 5th meetings, from 11 to 13 April. It had before it the progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on preparations for the Conference (A/CONF.165/PC.1/2).

17. The Preparatory Committee began its consideration of the report at its 2nd meeting, on 11 April, following an introductory statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference. Statements were made by the representatives of Croatia, the United States of America and Italy. Statements were also made by the representatives of the World Bank, Habitat International Coalition and the International Society of City and Regional Planners.

18. At the 3rd meeting, on 12 April, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Uganda (on behalf of the Group of African States), Kenya, the Russian Federation, Jordan (on behalf of the Arab States), Sri Lanka, Turkey, China, Japan, Finland, Germany and Azerbaijan. The representative of the International Real Estate Federation also made a statement.

19. At the 4th meeting, on 12 April, statements were made by the representative of Tunisia. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Urban Development Association and the International Union of Local Authorities.

20. At the 5th meeting, on 13 April, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Nigeria, Sweden, Mexico, Cuba, Palestine, Chile, the United Arab Emirates, the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and Israel. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Volunteers, the International Rural Housing Association, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers, ILO and the International Union of Tenants.

B. Reports of the Committees

1. Preparations at the country level and preparations at the regional and global levels

(Agenda items 3 and 4)

21. Committee I considered agenda items 3 and 4 at its 1st to 7th meetings, from 12 to 22 April. It had before it the following documents: Draft statement of principles and commitments (A/CONF.165/PC.1/3); Draft work programme for the preparatory process (A/CONF.165/PC.1/4); Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourteenth session, 26 April to 5 May 1993 (A/CONF.165/PC.1/7); Guidelines: a framework and format for country reporting (A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.1); Paper submitted by the Economic Commission for Europe (A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.3); Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development and Management in Asia and the Pacific (A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.4); Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indicators for Country Reporting

(A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.3); Declaration by African Ministers responsible for human settlements (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.6); Advance report and recommendations of the International Round Table on Sustainable City Development from Urban Crisis to Healthy Cities - Urbanization in Development Policy (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.7); the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements and the Vancouver Plan of Action (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.8), Preliminary Guidelines from the Latin American and Caribbean group (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.9) and the report of the First Arab Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Amman, Jordan, 21 to 23 March 1994 (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.11).

22. Committee I began its consideration of the documents before it at its 1st meeting, on 12 April, following an introductory statement by the Deputy-Secretary-General of the Conference. Statements were made by the representatives of Jordan, Senegal, Venezuela, Turkey, Uganda, Bangladesh, Sweden, Nigeria, Kenya, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Nepal, the Russian Federation, Poland, Italy, the Netherlands, the United States of America and Nicaragua.

23. At the 2nd meeting, on 13 April, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Kenya, the United States of America, Poland, Uganda, Senegal, Niger, Canada, Burundi, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Zambia, Turkey and Tunisia. Statements were also made by the representatives of Habitat International Coalition and the ECA.

24. At the 3rd meeting, on 13 April, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, Sweden, Norway, Kenya, Senegal, Italy, Canada, Uganda, Jordan, Venezuela, Tunisia, France and Nepal. Statements were also made by the representatives of the World Bank, Habitat International Coalition, the International Council of Women and ESCAP.

25. At the 4th meeting, on 14 April, a statement was made by the Secretary-General of the Conference. Statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Norway, Kenya, Senegal, Sweden, Indonesia, the Central African Republic, Botswana, Finland, Turkey, the Congo, Uganda, Nepal and Tunisia. Statements were also made by the representatives of City College of New York (on behalf of the NGO Committee on Shelter and Community), Habitat International Coalition, UNDP and the International Council of Women.

26. At the 5th meeting, on 14 April, statements were made by the representatives of the Congo, Uganda, Turkey, Malawi, the United States, Barbados, Senegal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Mexico and Chile. A statement was also made by the representative of the African Housing Fund.

27. At the 6th meeting, on 15 April, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Uganda, Canada, Kenya, Brazil, Sweden, Hungary, Poland, the Netherlands and Finland. A statement was made by the representative of the ECA.

28. The Committee adopted its report at its 7th meeting, on 22 April.

2. Draft statement of principles and commitments and draft issue papers and draft format for programmes and subprogrammes of the plan of action

(Agenda items 5 and 6)

29. Committee II considered agenda items 5 and 6 at its 1st to 4th meetings, from 13 to 22 April. It had before it the following documents: Draft statement of principles and commitments (A/CONF.165/PC.1/3); Draft format of the global plan of action (A/CONF.165/PC.1/5); Major reviews (A/CONF.165/PC.1/6); Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourteenth session, 26 April to 5 May 1993 (A/CONF.165/PC.1/7); the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements and the Vancouver Plan of Action (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.8); and Proposed outline for a Habitat II plan of action (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.10).

30. Committee II began its consideration of the documents before it at its 1st meeting, on 13 April, following an introductory statement made on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Conference. Statements were made by the representatives of Senegal, Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, Brazil, Malawi, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, France, the Holy See, Sweden, Chile and Cuba. Statements were also made by Habitat International Coalition, the International Council of Women and the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives.

31. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 April, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Kenya, Turkey, Tunisia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the United States, Zambia, the Netherlands, Nepal, the United Kingdom, Ecuador, Finland, the Russian Federation, Mexico, Egypt, Italy, Cuba, China and the Philippines. A statement was also made by the representative of the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers.

32. At the 3rd meeting, on 14 April, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador, Mexico, Tunisia, Egypt, Chile, Kenya and Finland.

33. The Committee adopted its report at its 4th meeting, on 22 April.

C. Arrangements for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee

34. At its 6th meeting, on 22 April, the Preparatory Committee decided that its second substantive session would be held from 24 April to 5 May 1995 at Nairobi.

D. Provisional agenda for the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee

35. At its 6th meeting, on 22 April, the Preparatory Committee adopted the following provisional agenda for its second substantive session:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Preparations for the Conference:

   (a) Activities of the Conference secretariat;

(b) Preparations at the national, regional and global levels, including finance;

(c) Activities of intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and other agencies;

(d) Special events, including world fair.

3. Statement of principles and commitments, and global plan of action.

4. State of human settlements report and major reviews.

5. Arrangements for the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee.

6. Provisional agenda for the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee.

7. Other matters.

8. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session.

III. ACTION TAKEN BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

36. At its 6th meeting, on 22 April, the Preparatory Committee decided to adopt the recommendations on preparations at the country, regional and global levels, shown as decision I/2 in annex I below.

37. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee having received the report of the Bureau on its review of the applications for accreditation submitted by non-governmental organizations, decided to grant accreditation to non-governmental organizations (see annex I, decision I/3).

38. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted a decision on the designation of its subsidiary committees (see annex I, decision I/4).

39. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided on the dates of its second session (see annex I, decision I/5).

40. Also at the 6th meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided to make a recommendation to the General Assembly on the need for a third session of the Preparatory Committee (see annex I, decision I/1).

IV. CLOSURE OF SESSION

41. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 22 April, the Secretary-General of the Conference made a concluding statement. A concluding statement was also made by Under-Secretary-General Elizabeth Dowdeswell. Statements were made by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Group of African States, by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of Asian States, by the representative of Poland on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and by the representative of the United States on behalf of the Group of Western Europe and other States. The representative of Jordan made a statement on behalf of the Arab States. A statement was made by the representative of Habitat International Coalition. A statement was also made by the representative of Turkey, as the host country of the Conference.

42. The Chairman then declared the first session of the Preparatory Committee closed.

ANNEX I

Decisions

A. Decisions requiring action by the General Assembly

Decision I/1. Third session of the Preparatory Committee.

The Preparatory Committee, bearing in mind the extensive programme of work that it had projected for accomplishment between its first substantive session in 1994 and the Habitat II Conference in 1996 and noting that, as of now, only one more Preparatory Committee session, to be held in April 1995, was scheduled prior to the Conference itself, which might not afford adequate opportunity for completion of preparatory work for the Conference and further concerned that a one-year gap between the Conference and the last preparatory activity for it (the second Preparatory Committee session, in 1995) could lead to a loss of momentum, decided to recommend to the General Assembly, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, that there be a third Preparatory Committee session, of relatively short duration, early in 1996.

B. Other decisions

Decision I/2. Recommendations by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at its first substantive session on preparations at the country, regional and global levels, on the draft statement of principles and commitments and on the draft global plan of action.

I. OBJECTIVES FOR THE PREPARATORY PROCESS AND FOR HABITAT II

1. Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, which defines the overall goals of the Conference, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) recommends the following overall objective to serve as a guiding principle for all countries for Habitat II:

> To increase the world awareness of the problems and potentials of human settlements - as important inputs to social progress and economic growth - and to commit the world's leaders to making our cities, towns and villages healthy, safe, just and sustainable.

2. At its first substantive session, the Preparatory Committee further refined the above objective into a set of operational objectives for preparations at the national, regional and international levels. Sensitivity to a gender perspective, to gender equity and to socially vulnerable groups should be considered in all phases of Habitat II and its preparatory process to include, but not be limited to, indicators, consultation processes, participation, plans of action, and review processes.

II. NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

3. The preparatory process should seek to attain the following two objectives by each participating country:

(a) To design, adopt and implement a national plan of action, based on an enabling strategy, which will address the issues of human settlements, in both urban and rural areas, taking into consideration environmental issues, and which will involve the full participation and support of the public and private sectors, and of non-governmental and community-based organizations;

(b) To strengthen the capacity of institutions at all levels to monitor shelter conditions and urbanization processes using a minimum set of substantially uniform and consistent indicators.

A. Main activities at the national level

4. The above-mentioned objectives would require specific implementing activities, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Adoption of a work programme:

(i) The work programme should be used to initiate and guide a process by which a national plan of action to address issues regarding shelter in rural and urban environments and urbanization issues can be developed;

(ii) The process should address the nature and extent of the public- and private-sector roles in the national plan of action involving non-governmental organizations and private-sector representatives (builders, brokers, developers, appraisers, managers etc.);

(iii) The process should encourage the creation of national and local human settlements coalitions and institutionalize the support of the public, private and non-governmental organization sectors in the formulation of the national plan of action and its shelter and urbanization objectives, utilizing the experience of public and private organizations, and of both men and women, with competence in the field;

(b) Institutional support and capacity-building:

(i) The preparatory process would produce a factual description and analysis of the quality, quantity, availability, accessibility and affordability of shelter and diagnose human settlements conditions through a minimum set of indicators. The process should assess, at the national scale, the environmental impact of expected future urbanization. The utility of the process should be demonstrated by using it to assess the extent to which the common goals and commitments of the Vancouver Declaration, the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and Agenda 21 are being attained;

(ii) Technical assistance may be sought in order to indicate how the information generated by the process could be used to develop national, regional and international consortia to respond to common shelter, settlements and urbanization problems. More specifically, technical assistance may be sought and provided to:

- Convey the structure and key elements of the indicators;

- Suggest the basic requirements for its implementation and operation;

- Indicate the extent to which it can be supplemented or modified without impairing its value as a source of comparative information;

- Indicate the ways and forms in which the indicators can produce policy-relevant data and information.

B. National reporting

5. It is recommended that national reports might be structured and consist of the following:

Part I. Assessment:

Assessment and strategy for all human settlements, including urban and rural indicators;

Shelter assessment and strategy, including the national shelter situation and indicators;

Environmental assessment of urbanization;

Other programme assessments and strategies;

Problems encountered, capacity-building requirements;

Examples of best practice.

Part II. National plan of action - designed to bring together all the participants in the settlements process, with appropriate attention to gender issues, to formulate their shelter and sustainable settlements objectives, legislation and budgetary actions. The national plans of action will inform the Global Plan of Action.

Part III. Country-specific reviews - as may be considered appropriate by the country concerned for inclusion in the country preparatory process for Habitat II, which may include aspects concerning settlements management with reference to decentralization and involvement of people and their organizations, poverty reduction, environmental management and disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction.

Part IV. Technical and financial assistance options - which will briefly describe the three or four highest priority human settlements strategies, plans, programmes or projects which could benefit from international technical and financial assistance.

6. These national reports, containing qualitative and quantitative indicators and information, will help demonstrate the nature, extent and depth of shelter, settlements and urban problems and point to areas requiring a national strategic response.

7. National reports, structured as recommended, will support the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in producing a current and best available picture of the global human settlements situation, and allow for a strategic response.

8. Information gathered in this way may also be organized into two or more thematic reports to support the conduct and integration of the four major reviews to be undertaken by the Secretary-General of the Conference. This information will make a major contribution to the Statement of Principles and Commitments and to the Global Plan of Action for Habitat II.

9. Production of national reports contemplates a major and meaningful preparatory process involving participation by an array of key actors at all levels. This preparatory effort should engage the participation of all relevant actors, such as local mayors, councillors and city managers; community-based organizations; non-governmental organizations; the private sector; metropolitan, provincial and state agencies; scientific and academic institutions; major national associations; women's groups; and central-government agencies, in a national dialogue seeking solutions to key housing, settlements or urban problems. These problems will then be attacked through sustained policies and programmes, including new or revised policies and programmes, where necessary.

10. In addition to the national reports described above, countries are invited to provide in-country case-studies of satisfactory practice in implementing the human settlements agenda of Habitat I, the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, a/ Agenda 21 b/ and any national programmes for human settlements development. Monographs, using all available media, including essays, plays, graphic and audio-visual presentations, may provide supplemental material.

11. If the foregoing objectives and activities are met, the preparatory process would achieve the following results:

(a) National plans of action which identify shelter, settlements and urbanization problems as a national policy priority and which provide a basis for adequate housing and urban policy development. The national plan of action would invite private-sector and non-governmental organizations' initiatives and involvement as full partners with government in the attainment of shelter, settlements and urbanization objectives, both in the short and long term;

(b) A significant improvement in the capacity to evaluate the status of shelter, settlements and urbanization, to assess the impact of public and private shelter, settlements and urbanization initiatives, to improve conditions of women and socially vulnerable groups, and to prioritize responses. The solution to any problem requires an accurate, objective, comprehensive and gender-sensitive description of the problem. Utilization of a set of indicators would create a substantially enhanced capacity to make an accurate description of shelter and urbanization conditions (affordability, availability, accessibility, production, economic impact, quality, finance, subsidies, environment, security, poverty etc.). To facilitate this work the Secretary-General of the Conference should prepare, as soon as possible, and submit to all countries, a short list of recommended key indicators;

(c) An expansion of existing knowledge of available public and private resources and expertise and provision of a "menu" of effective policies, programmes and institutional arrangements that could be adopted or accessed by countries seeking to address specific shelter and urbanization deficits.

III. INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES

12. The preparatory process should seek to attain the following international objectives:

(a) To present a "State of Human Settlements" report that should contain a description of the main challenges and concerns of urbanization, identify human settlements development constraints at local, national and international levels, and build, on the basis of all available knowledge, a vision of sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter for all. This knowledge base will be used to determine the extent to which the goals and commitments of the Vancouver Declaration, c/ the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and Agenda 21 are being attained;

(b) To produce a Statement of Principles and Commitments based on a new international consensus on policies and goals for shelter and for the future of human settlements - cities, towns and villages - in the twenty-first century;

(c) To produce a Global Plan of Action to mobilize international resources and create institutional arrangements to assist countries to implement and monitor the goals of sustainable human settlements and shelter for all and to protect the environment against unwarranted and undesirable impacts of urbanization;

(d) To make available to the Secretary-General of the Conference, to each participating country, and in particular the developing countries, and to the international community, the broadest possible range of information concerning public and private shelter strategies, technologies, resources, experience, expertise and sources of support relevant to shelter and urbanization needs and initiatives.

13. The main activities at the international level will be:

(a) To undertake, in close collaboration with all global, regional and national level organizations and committees a concerted global awareness-building campaign, including the convening of an independent group of eminent persons, to promote better understanding of human settlements issues, problems and possible solutions;

(b) To maximize the sharing of experience and knowledge to contribute to the formulation of the Global Plan of Action and the Statement of Principles and Commitments. International and regional networks should be strengthened, in particular through the United Nations regional commissions, with regional banks and other appropriate organizations. Furthermore, scientific and professional organizations should be encouraged to prepare scenarios concerning different growth patterns;

(c) To encourage and mobilize bilateral and multilateral assistance and cooperation to support national preparatory processes more specifically in providing financial and technical assistance and advisory services to countries in the preparation and formulation of their national action plans and reports;

(d) To document and disseminate examples of "best practice" in solving human settlements problems and to facilitate dissemination through the use of appropriate information and communication technologies;

(e) To organize, subject to feasibility, a world fair relevant to the concerns of Habitat II, and other relevant forums and round tables on the themes of Habitat II.

IV. PARTICIPATION

14. The preparatory work for Habitat II and the Conference itself needs to find a way to distinguish Habitat II from other global conferences by offering the possibility of integrating many of the common concerns addressed through other United Nations and global processes. Its particular feature lies in the fact that a human settlements conference must ultimately represent the concerns of people living within communities, affirming the importance of "local" in a global world. Ways and means for ensuring the active involvement of the local level will be sought by using, among other means, the latest communication technologies.

A. Composition and responsibilities of national committees

15. Governments of each participating State should establish national committees. The national committees are encouraged to involve from the outset all relevant actors, such as:

(a) All levels of governments;

(b) Civic leaders, prominent personalities, national and local politicians, mayors, councillors and so forth;

(c) The academic and scientific community;

(d) Grass-roots community leaders and the non-governmental and community-based organizations;

(e) The private sector;

(f) Human settlements professionals.

16. The main responsibilities of national committees are to formulate, adopt and implement a work programme that will:

(a) Strengthen participatory processes by mobilizing key actors and their constituencies;

(b) Organize local and country consultations and forums;

(c) Formulate preliminary assessments of settlements-development issues including the use of shelter/urban indicators and identifying and disseminating examples of best practice;

(d) Facilitate debate of issues and options and raise awareness through all available media;

(e) Facilitate discussion on priority issues and options for future actions to be included in local and national plans of action, and the national report;

(f) Produce a national report;

(g) Continue the consultative process on mobilizing resources for implementation of local and national action plans beyond 1996;

(h) Prepare and present audio-visual documentaries of examples of best practice in human settlements development.

17. Governments will keep the Secretary-General of the Conference, regional commissions and other appropriate regional organizations informed on the preparatory activities of their national committees. Governments wishing to have their inputs, including progress on national reports, reflected in the documentation for the second session of the Preparatory Committee must submit documentation to the Secretary-General of the Conference, either directly or through regional organizations, by 1 December 1994. Governments wishing to have their final inputs, including national reports, reflected in the documentation for the Conference must submit documentation by 1 December 1995.

B. Local coalitions

18. Initiatives at the local level to form coalitions of key actors and community groups in the field of human settlements for the purpose of strengthening the support for national plans of action and, where necessary, elaboration of suitable plans of action and the finalization of local plans of action should be encouraged.

C. Advisory services

19. The Secretary-General of the Conference will facilitate international partnerships to follow up ad hoc advisory services upon the request of Governments to help organize country consultations, initiate and facilitate dialogue between different interest groups and synthesize reporting. The areas in which advisory services will be encouraged include, among others:

(a) Facilitation of country consultations, round tables, seminars, workshops, expert panels and so forth;

(b) Use of media for pubic awareness campaigns;

(c) Organizing community meetings and group activities;

(d) Organizing competitions and exhibitions;

(e) Advising on the ways in which the potential of communications technologies, such as tele-conferencing and electronic mail, can be exploited to the full. In this connection, consideration should be given to the possibility of audio-visual presentations of country statements during the Conference;

(f) Facilitating implementation of appropriate shelter, settlements and urban indicators.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Nature of attendance

20. Participation should be at the highest possible level. Without any prejudice to the sovereign rights of States with regard to the composition of their delegations, national governments may consider involving and supporting, wherever possible, governmental participation at all levels, as well as

participation by community groups and non-governmental organizations in the delegations to the Conference.

21. Attendance should be broadly based, representing all the key actors mentioned above, namely, grass-roots community leaders, civic leaders, prominent personalities, politicians of all levels of government, mayors, councillors, non-governmental organizations, the business community, the academic and scientific community, the media and human settlements professionals from the public and private sectors.

22. Representation at the Conference and its preparatory process should be well-balanced in terms of gender.

B. Regional-level activities leading to the Conference

23. The United Nations regional commissions have a central role to play at the regional level in the preparatory process, the Conference itself and beyond. This role should include, among other matters:

(a) Coordinating and facilitating regional activities, including regional meetings, through a work programme over the next two years;

(b) Enabling Member States with limited institutional and financial capacity to participate effectively in the preparatory process and in the Conference;

(c) Liaison and preparation of a regional report on the state of human settlements, highlighting cross-sectoral and cross-country concerns.

C. World fair

24. The organization of a self-financing world fair, relevant to the concerns of Habitat II, should be encouraged. Special attention should be given to the participation of firms and organizations that offer appropriate, low-cost, environmentally sound products and services, and use environmentally sound technologies. The world fair should also stress the active role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) with an exhibition on the successful experiences of the last decades around the world, underlining the exchange of positive experience among developing countries.

D. Non-governmental organizations and local government forums

25. The organization of broad-based forums parallel to the main activities of the Conference, attended by the representatives of government at all levels, and non-governmental organizations should be encouraged. The number of those attending should be further increased by the introduction of interactive communication technologies.

E. Organization and objectives for the second session of the Preparatory Committee

26. The second session of the Preparatory Committee can most usefully undertake the following activities:

(a) Receive and discuss material prepared at the regional and national levels for Habitat II;

(b) Assess the progress of the preparatory process including the likely scale of attendance;

(c) Identify emerging conclusions and steer the preparatory activities in appropriate directions;

(d) Discuss the drafts of the report on the state of human settlements, the Statement of Principles and Commitments and the format and content of the Global Plan of Action, prepared by the Secretary-General of the Conference, on the basis of existing knowledge and on the basis of new materials prepared at the national and regional levels.

VI. FINANCING OF HABITAT II AND ITS PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

27. The Secretary-General of the Conference should set priorities and organize activities in the light of existing and expected commitments by donors and international organizations.

28. For purposes of financially assisting national committees for the preparatory process, it is recommended that 50 per cent of the available funds be allocated equally among the developing countries, and that the remaining funds be allocated among such countries according to their extra needs as reflected by relevant factors, subject to the submission of appropriate plans.

29. It is recommended that requests for support from national committees be complete and specific and that they be part of a two-year work programme which shows what impact the support would have on the overall country preparatory process. Requests for support should be prioritized and scheduled by national committees in order that the cash flow for support may be properly managed by the Secretary-General of the Conference.

30. It is recommended that countries inform the Secretary-General of the Conference of direct bilateral transactions between countries and/or organizations in order to enable him to issue a periodic report on the status of the flow of all support resources to the preparatory process.

31. In addition to contributions from members of the traditional donor community, it is recommended that the Secretary-General of the Conference explore and pursue all appropriate sources of funding for the Conference and its preparatory process, including the private sector and foundations. The Secretary-General should also explore all possibilities of making use of many activities already planned by United Nations agencies and other relevant international organizations where Habitat is on the agenda.

32. For country-level preparations, the necessity of an adequate flow of financial resources from donors is recognized.

VII. DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

33. In formulating the drafts of the Statement of Principles and Commitments and the Global Plan of Action to be discussed at the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference, in consultation with Member States, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), should take into account the following guidelines:

(a) Full account should be taken of the human settlements chapter and the human settlements-related components of Agenda 21;

(b) The document should be preceded by an introduction for the benefit of the participants in the Preparatory Committee at its second session explaining the background and offering a rationale for the proposed Plan of Action;

(c) The Statement of Principles and Commitments should be integrated into the Global Plan of Action;

(d) The document should have a clear structure and contain well-defined objectives, and its language should be plain and understandable to all;

(e) The Plan of Action should take into account the relevant conclusions and decisions of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver in 1976, and other United Nations conferences. Habitat II can play a vital role in bringing together the results of these conferences and help translate them into concrete action at the human settlements level;

(f) The social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability should form the conceptual basis for both the Statement of Principles and the Global Plan of Action;

(g) The documents presented by the regional groups, such as the Declaration by African Ministers responsible for Human Settlements (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.6), the Preliminary Guidelines from the Latin American and Caribbean group (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.9), the report of the First Arab Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.11), the conference room paper submitted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.3), and the Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development and Management in Asia and the Pacific (A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.4), could serve as a contribution to the Statement of Principles and Commitments and to the Global Plan of Action;

(h) The concept of specific instruments, necessary for implementation of the Global Plan of Action (inter alia, international agreements and conventions), should be investigated and reported on by the Secretary-General of the Conference at the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

A. Draft Statement of Principles and Commitments

34. The Statement should reaffirm and be framed within the general goals of the United Nations, contain a reference to the Principles adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, as well as a reference to the Principles and Commitments adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro; and introduce the rationale for

the new principles and commitments which will guide national and international action on human settlements for the coming two decades.

35. The overall principle should be Principle 1 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, d/ which states:

> "Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature."

36. The main objective of the Global Plan of Action should be based on the language contained in the human settlements chapter of Agenda 21 b/ which states:

> "The overall human settlement objective is to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular the urban and rural poor."

37. The Statement should also consider, as appropriate, all other relevant principles from the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including:

(a) The cooperation of States in the eradication of poverty;

(b) The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed ones;

(c) The assessment of the environmental impact of development;

(d) The full participation of women in sustainable development;

(e) The vital role of indigenous people and other local communities;

(f) The protection of the environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation;

(g) The indivisibility and interdependence of peace, development and environmental protection.

38. The Secretary-General of the Conference should also consider two types of principles:

(a) Thematic principles:

(i) Adequate housing is a basic human right as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(ii) Access to safe and healthy shelter is essential;

(iii) Healthy, safe and sustainable human settlements are a basic human need;

(b) Operational principles which may include the efficient mobilization and rational management of all available resources; the enablement of people to participate fully in the decision-making process for sustainable human settlements and shelter development; international cooperation; education and

capacity-building as prerequisites for sustainable human settlements development; and effective commitment to strengthening local governments.

B. Draft Global Plan of Action

39. In the formulation of the draft Global Plan of Action full account should be taken of the guidance provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/180.

40. The Global Plan of Action should be formulated through the dynamic of two-way communications among global, regional and national levels. The Global Plan's report on the state of human settlements, statement of principles and commitments and establishment of action plans should build on national reports and plans of action, and on inputs from United Nations regional commissions, regional banks and other appropriate organizations. Concurrently, the Global Plan of Action is intended to provide a means for the development of international institutional arrangements and to give guidance for the development of effective policies and programmes addressing shelter, settlements and urbanization issues in national action plans up to and throughout the first two decades of the next century.

41. In preparing the draft of the Global Plan of Action, to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its next session, the Secretary-General of the Conference should take into account the discussion of his report on the draft format of the Global Plan of Action (A/CONF.165/PC.1/5) as reflected in the present report of the first session of the Preparatory Committee as well as the proposed outline for a global plan of action (A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.10).

42. The Global Plan of Action should address the General Assembly's decision in paragraph 2 (b) (v) of its resolution 47/180 to include proposals for mobilizing, nationally and internationally, the necessary human, financial and technical resources, taking into account the enabling concept and the commitment of new and additional resources.

43. The Global Plan of Action should be structured around the following two main themes of the Conference:

(a) Adequate shelter for all;

(b) Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world.

44. The following multi-sectoral issues should be considered as an integral dimension of all programmes and sub-sectoral programmes:

(a) Settlements management, with reference to decentralization and the involvement of people and their organizations;

(b) Poverty reduction;

(c) Environmental management;

(d) Disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction.

45. Among the cross-sectoral issues to be added, the following should be considered:

(a) Women;

(b) The urban economy and employment;

(c) Social and economic dimensions of urbanization and shelter development;

(d) Education and capacity-building;

(e) Equity and vulnerable social groups.

46. Additional aspects and issues should also be taken into account including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) Urban areas, environment and energy (attention being given to the report of the Expert Group Meeting held at Lund from 12 to 18 March 1993 on Urban Areas, Environment and Energy - Putting Agenda 21 into Action);

(b) Transport and energy;

(c) Urban-rural interaction and competition;

(d) Research support to regional and national institutions;

(e) The special characteristics of different regions of the world;

(f) Affordability of basic shelter and services;

(g) South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation;

(h) The role of regional, spatial/physical and urban planning;

(i) The special needs of disabled persons;

(j) Reconstruction and revitalization of areas and settlements affected by war;

(k) Participatory and consultative mechanisms throughout the programme formulation, implementation and monitoring process;

(l) Development of environmentally-friendly building materials and construction technology;

(m) Assistance for the temporary settlement and resettlement of refugees and their return to their country of origin, as well as assistance for internally displaced persons;

(n) Regularization and upgrading of informally built settlements;

(o) Sustainable land-use planning and management;

(p) Employment-intensive shelter strategies;

(q) Conservation and preservation of freshwater resources;

(r) Health and environmental improvement;

(s) The effects of migration on cities;

(t) Coastal zone management;

(u) Shelter for people in emergencies;

(v) Land and finance;

(w) Community participation and the informal sector.

C. Major reviews

47. The report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on major reviews, requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/180 (A/CONF.165/PC.1/6), should be considered in the framework of the national preparatory processes and taken into account in guiding them. The Preparatory Committee will consider the four major reviews at its next session on the basis of a revised version, taking into account suggestions from countries and preliminary results of preparations at the national level.

Decision I/3. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

The Preparatory Committee, having received the report of the Bureau on its review of the applications for accreditation submitted by non-governmental organizations, decided to grant accreditation to non-governmental organizations as indicated below.

I. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that express their wish to attend the Conference and the meetings of its Preparatory Committee shall be accredited for participation. The following non-governmental organizations in this category have indicated their wish to attend the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference and have been granted accreditation:

Asociación Mundial de Vivienda Rural (International Rural Housing Association)
Baha'i International Community
Habitat International Coalition
International Academy of Architecture
International Architects Designers for Social Responsibility
International Council of Women
International Federation for Housing and Planning
International Federation of Surveyors
International Real Estate Federation
International Society of City and Regional Planners
International Union of Architects
International Union of Local Authorities
International Union of Tenants
Inter-Parliamentary Union
World Assembly of Youth
World Federation of United Nations Associations

II. Non-governmental organizations which have applied for accreditation with all the required information and have been granted accreditation:

American Planning Association, International Division, New York
Centre for Our Common Future, Geneva, Switzerland
City College Architectural Centre, New York
Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlements (CREUMHS), Kenya
Cooperative Housing Foundation, United States
Council for Human Ecology, Kenya
Development Alternatives, New Delhi
European Federation of National Organizations Working with the Homeless, Belgium
Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya
GROOTS International (Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood) New York
Instituto Brasileiro de Administração Municipal, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, Toronto, Canada
Japan Habitat Society, Japan
Mega-Cities Project, New York
Praja Sahayaka Sewaya, Sri Lanka
Society for Development Studies, New Delhi
South African Institute of Town and Regional Planners, South Africa
World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis), France
Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action, Bombay, India

III. Non-governmental organizations which are in the process of being granted accreditation:

Arab Urban Development Institute, Saudi Arabia
Eco-Hab International, New York
Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde, Senegal
Estrategia, Centro de Investigación y Acción para el Desarollo Urbano, Peru
Forum per la Laguna, Italy
Galilee Foundation, Nigeria
Green Earth Organization, Ghana
Hassan Fathy Institute of Construction Workers, Rome, Italy
Housing People of Zimbabwe, Harare
Huma Multipurpose Women Group, Kandiege, Kenya
Institut de Recherche sur l'Environnement, la Roche/Foron, France
International Synergy Institute, United States
Karnataka Welfare Society, India
Kenya Youth and Habitat Organisation, Nairobi
National Committee for Habitat, United States
Programme Solidarité Habitat, France
Samoan Association of Non-Governmental Organisations, Western Samoa
Slovak Environmental Agency, Nitra, Slovakia
The Tatonka Foundation, Alberta, Canada
Trialog, Karlsruhe, Germany
Unione Inquilini, Italy
Urban Ecology Australia, Adelaide, Australia
Women Advancement Trust, United Republic of Tanzania
World Federation of Engineering Organizations, London

Decision I/4. Subsidiary bodies of the Preparatory Committee.

The Preparatory Committee decided that its subsidiary committees should henceforth be designated as working groups.

Decision I/5. Date of second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee.

The Preparatory Committee, bearing in mind the decision of the General Assembly, contained in paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/170 of 22 December 1992, that the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee should be held in conjunction with the 1995 session of the Commission on Human Settlements, and recognizing the strong desire expressed by Member States that, in the interest of efficiency, the total duration of both meetings should not exceed two weeks altogether, decided:

(a) That the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee should be held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 24 April to 5 May 1995;

(b) To request the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to approach the Bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements with a view to securing the Commission's agreement for the dates of the fifteenth session of the Commission, currently 19 to 25 April 1995, to be changed to the new dates of 26 April to 2 May 1995, in order to respond to the considerations expressed in the opening paragraph of the present decision.

Notes

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

b/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II.

c/ Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV and corrigendum).

d/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex I.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Preparatory Committee at its first session

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
1	A/CONF.165/PC.1/1	Provisional agenda for the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee
1	A/CONF.165/PC.1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda for the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee
1	A/CONF.165/PC.1/1/Add.2	Proposed organizational structure for the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
1	A/CONF.165/PC.1/1/Add.3	Proposed programme of work for Sessional Committee I
2,3,4	A/CONF.165/PC.1/2	Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of the Conference Secretariat
5	A/CONF.165/PC.1/3	Draft Statement of Principles and Commitments: report of the Secretary-General of the Conference
3,4	A/CONF.165/PC.1/4	Draft Work Programme for the Preparatory Process: report of the Secretary-General of the Conference
6	A/CONF.165/PC.1/5	Draft format of the Global Plan of Action: report of the Secretary-General of the Conference
6	A/CONF.165/PC.1/6	Major reviews: report of the Secretary-General of the Conference
3,6	A/CONF.165/PC.1/7	Recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session
8	A/CONF.165/PC.1/8	Provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee
9	A/CONF.165/PC.1/9	Report of the Preparatory Committee on its first substantive session

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
-	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.1	Report on the state of preparedness of documents for the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee
6	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.2	Sustainable human settlements development: implementing Agenda 21
3	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.3	Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indicators for Country Reporting
1	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.4/Rev.1	List of documents
1	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.5	List of participants
4	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.6	Declaration by African Ministers responsible for Human Settlements
4	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.7	Advance report and recommendations formulated by the participants of the International Round Table Sustainable City Development: From Urban Crisis to Healthy Cities
4	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.8	The Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements and the Vancouver Plan of Action
4	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.9	Preliminary guidelines from the Latin American and Caribbean group
6	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.10	Proposed outline for a Habitat II global plan of action
4,5,6	A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.11	Report of the First Arab Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
3	A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.1	Guidelines: a framework and format for country reporting
2	A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.2	Statement on preparations for Habitat II from the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNCHS (Habitat)
4	A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.3	Submission of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe
4	A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.4	Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development and Management in Asia and the Pacific

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
1	A/CONF.165/PC.1/CRP.5	Accreditation of non-governmental organizations
1	(A/48/37)	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements on its organizational session

ANNEX III

Summaries of statements

A. Statement by Mr. Martti Lujanen, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

In his statement, the Chairman said that Habitat II was an integral part of the follow-up process to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It had a wider scope, being an attempt to express the problems related to human settlements concretely and to find solutions to them. Those problems, related to water, sanitation, traffic, urbanization, homelessness, social and other problems, were common to all societies in both the developed and developing world. They affected the everyday life of millions of people. So it was important to spread knowledge about the Conference and its goals and aims. General Assembly resolution 47/180 gave the Committee the task of preparing the draft provisional agenda for the Conference; adopting guidelines for a harmonized approach to preparation and reporting; and preparing draft decisions, including the plan of action, for the Conference. The only other session of the Preparatory Committee would be convened in early 1995. It was of vital importance that the spirit of global partnership initiated at Rio be carried forward to the present Conference and the preparations for it. At Rio, all countries agreed to act together to pursue sustainable development. Habitat II would be a key indicator of the prospects for more sustainable approaches to global and local development. The Preparatory Committee had an important role and responsibility in preparing its meeting in such a way that those goals would be reached.

B. Address by Mr. Wally N'Dow, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

1. The Secretary-General of the Conference said that the future of the planet would be an urban one as was evident from the urbanization levels in industrialized and developing countries. To sustain world economic growth, while maintaining the integrity of the Earth's ecological systems was largely an urban challenge, given the dominant place urban areas held in population distribution and in the production and consumption of goods and services. That challenge could be met only through new thinking, new policies and decisive action within the urban domain. The fundamental goal of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements was to prepare the international community for life on an urbanized planet.

2. Many barriers remained before urbanization and urban development could play their vital roles in the performance of economic and ecological systems. If political, economic, social and environmental goals were to be achieved within the context of sustainable development, cities had to work well, and be soundly managed, through the devolution of responsibilities and resources commensurate to their economic and environmental tasks. They had also to become true communities marked by participation, cooperation and partnership if they were to reach their development potential.

3. The dominant imperative of the coming decades would be the generation of rapid economic and employment growth and cities would have to play a large part

in that. Global trends and population distribution would create an urban planet tied together in a network of communication and social, economic and political linkages. As population growth in urban areas of developing countries would be 10 times that of developed countries, the Conference was justified in concentrating on the developing countries. A global and cumulative five- to ten-fold increase in economic activity would be required over the coming decades to meet the needs and aspirations of burgeoning urban populations and to reduce mass poverty.

4. While high growth rates might be necessary to satisfy current and future needs and aspirations, they represented a colossal new burden on the biosphere. Just to lift the developing countries out of health- and life-threatening poverty would result in higher consumption levels. As a consequence of natural population increase, migration and the deterioration of the physical and ecological carrying capacities of rural economies, the growth of many cities in developing countries had been at twice the overall rate of national population growth; and that of slums and squatter settlements within them at twice that rate again. There were many signs that cities and towns were taking the lead in the drive towards economic growth, yet the lack of management capacity, infrastructure investment and basic services and environmental and resource degradation raised the question of whether such growth was sustainable.

5. The unexpected levels of urban population growth had overwhelmed the capacity of the formal economy to absorb it. At least 600 million urban dwellers were estimated to live in "life- and health-threatening" situations, a number that could be expected to grow rapidly, making urban poverty a potentially destabilizing and explosive issue. As the physical and natural environment in and around cities deteriorated, the most affected were the poor, which was why, for the poor, the most important environmental priorities continued to be housing, health and other basic services.

6. Despite regional differences, all cities were faced with the need to accelerate economic growth, to address growing problems of poverty and social disintegration and to combat and alleviate the environmental degradation caused by urban growth. All cities were faced with resource constraints, lack of management capacity, infrastructure bottlenecks and rising social conflicts.

7. The world had changed fundamentally since the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements at Vancouver. At that time, there was still the belief that rapid urbanization could be mitigated or diffused. That had not occurred; urbanization and large-city growth had continued relentlessly. In 1976, there had been full confidence in the role and ability of States to lead the process of human settlements development; that had given way to the realization of the limitations of the State and of the crucial importance of private economic forces as the principal agents of development and growth. While the deepening of democratic processes had opened up new avenues of participation, they had also exerted greatly increased political pressures for change from below, most acutely at the municipal level. There was also a greater global commitment to environmentally sustainable development and a growing awareness of the role of cities in achieving it.

8. The collapse of the bi-polar world order would serve to constrain policy choice and options for many countries and place a premium on cities becoming competitive in an ever-more integrated global market economy.

9. Five outcomes from Habitat II were desirable: greater awareness of the urban revolution which was transforming the globe and a greater political

commitment in all countries to resolving pressing urban development problems and issues; building capacity at all levels to deal with the pressing issues raised by rapid urbanization and manage the process of sustainable urban development efficiently and effectively; new partnerships among all stakeholders in the city; a concerted effort in identifying new strategies and policies to reduce the level of urban poverty; and innovative strategies and policies to mitigate the environmental impact of urban growth and development and thus contribute to accelerated implementation of Agenda 21 and its goal of sustainable human development.

10. Achieving the goals of the plan of action would rest heavily on the cities themselves, on municipal authorities, on local communities and on the private sector who know what the problems are that they face every day. That argued for their involvement in the Conference. A cross-sectoral approach was required that would influence the nature and content of the human settlements programme and of the international institutional arrangements for achieving its goals. That meant a close coordination between Habitat II and other major United Nations Conferences in the area of social and economic development. Given current economic and demographic trends, the recommendations of those conferences would have to be implemented in an urban background.

11. The imperative to reconsider the implications of urbanization - 20 years after the Vancouver Conference - was clear. The role of cities in sustainable development must be reviewed and policies revised accordingly.

C. Statement by Ms. E. Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General

1. The Under-Secretary-General said that the international community had pledged itself to the goal of sustainable development at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. That had not been just a call for environmental protection; it implied a new approach to economic development that was fair to all people, did not diminish or destroy the natural resource base, and did not compromise the carrying capacity of the planet. Sustainable development was about developing, enduring and environmentally sound settlements and societies. The preparatory process for Habitat II was an opportunity to move from rhetoric to action.

2. Natural resources should be used so as not to create ecological debt, and investments in shelter should not create a social debt for future generations. In future, most people would be born in the towns and cities of developing countries and many would be poor. For those hundreds of millions to have hope, economic development would have to be generated in urban environments already under severe threat. Their environmental concern was not so much about quality of life, but life itself. The poorer one was, the greater was the threat. Many of them lived in the most ecologically vulnerable and marginal lands, caught in the spiral of poverty and environmental degradation.

3. The environment was also impacted upon by economic development, and the problems of poverty were associated with the lack of economic development. The challenge might be to accelerate equitable access to secure land tenure and income growth which lead to a sense of stewardship of the environment and participation in the resolution of environmental problems, making human settlements a forethought rather than an afterthought. Everywhere sustainable development was key to breaking the cycle of poverty and environmental decline, to the achievement of the goals of Agenda 21. Indeed, the achievement of the goals of Agenda 21 was vital to sustainable human settlements.

4. To balance and achieve the goals of increased productivity, poverty reduction and environmental protection, a change of approach was required. Transparency and accountability meant that institutions may be subject to public scrutiny. Sustainable development, and human settlement development, were the result of a multitude of decisions taken both by public institutions and by women, families, interest groups, business and industry in a participatory process. In that regard, implementing Agenda 21 became a political process with government under increased political pressure from the poor and the dispossessed, especially at the municipal level.

5. The preparatory process for the Conference needed to reflect the aforementioned by heeding those with daily responsibility in urban management and in finding technological and economic solutions to urban problems. The process needed to realize its links with other United Nations conferences. The Conference was singularly important to a very large degree to the success or failure of Agenda 21. The world had become smaller and countries were interdependent. That had been recognized with regard to the environment and trade. It needs to be recognized in respect of urbanization, an issue that affected all of humanity.

ANNEX IV

Inaugural address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. The question of human settlements is urgent. There must be no delay. The time for getting organized is over. The time to address substance is here.

2. Three basic questions must be addressed by Habitat II. First, the urgency of the crisis; secondly, the priorities for the Conference; thirdly, the outcome of Habitat II and its implications for development.

3. Nearly 50 years after the creation of the United Nations, war, poverty and oppression continue to make the goals of the Charter elusive visions of the future. Some 55 societies live in the midst, the aftermath, or the fear of conflict, civil or international. Absolute poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy are the lot of one fifth of the world's population. The global environment has been weakened. Deforestation, desertification and pollution of the sea, the topsoil and the atmosphere threaten life itself.

4. As a result, millions of people are fleeing from wars, famines, environmental devastation and natural disasters. Additional millions are migrating to find employment. The world community must now deal with some 45 million refugees and displaced persons. We are in the midst of the largest migration in the history of humanity. It has begun to change the way in which societies are organized. It presents problems which have come to the top of the international agenda.

5. The most visible consequence of mass migration is the phenomenal growth of urban areas. The twenty-first century is only a few years away. By then, the overwhelming majority of people in every country will be living in cities. Urban settlements will become the primary place for the struggle for development. Cities will face the influx of vast new populations, clamouring for jobs and housing. Huge financial outlays for infrastructure and services will be needed. The impact of global urban civilization on the Earth's natural resources must be understood if we are to enter the next century well prepared.

6. The mass exodus to cities has already led to more urban poverty, less housing and fewer services, unemployment and disaffection among youth. In the inner cities especially, ethnic tension, violence, substance abuse and social disintegration are on the rise. The emergence of mega-cities has brought land degradation, traffic congestion and air, water and noise pollution.

7. The challenge of sustainable development is a challenge of urban settlements. The world's cities must become sustainable, safe, healthy, humane and affordable. Resources must be mobilized in a global plan of action. Everyone must join in this battle for development. All levels of society are challenged. All levels of society therefore must act. Local, national, regional and international plans of action must be created. This needs the cooperation of municipal authorities, national governments, and regional and international organizations. The role of non-state actors in development will be vital.

8. Non-governmental organizations have flexible structures and dedicated staff. They are able to grasp efficiently the needs and demands of local communities. They can mobilize voluntary private funds. At a time when

Governments assert donor fatigue, this attribute of non-governmental organizations will be crucial for development.

9. Community and grass-roots organizations flourish in urban environments. Neighbourhood associations, women's groups, and religious communities are all manifestations of that essential truth; the inhabitants of the city are the spiritual descendants of the charter holders of the Middle Ages. They will not have their life patterns dictated by anyone. They are the practical expression of the ideal of self-help, and they will be fundamental to the success of our agenda.

10. The topic of this conference, "The City Summit", encompasses many issues. I look to the Preparatory Committee for new ideas. There are hard questions to be answered:

- How can we improve the governance and finance of human settlements?
- What policies are needed to improve conditions for the poorest people, families and communities?
- How can we ensure basic hygienic conditions in urban areas, while avoiding long-term damage to the environment?
- Can we ensure that, by a target date, adequate shelter will exist for all?
- What must be done to mitigate the effects of natural disaster and war?
- Can the cycle of deprivation, conflict, devastation and failure to develop be broken?

11. These are not easy questions. Some would believe they are beyond the capacity of any cooperative effort. Your Committee, therefore, bears a great burden, but you are not alone in your endeavour. General Assembly resolution 47/180 on Habitat II has invited all relevant or interested organizations, organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations and other organizations to participate actively in the preparatory process. Speaking on behalf of the United Nations, I can say that we stand ready to provide all possible assistance.

12. The same resolution invites non-governmental organizations to participate in and contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process. Non-governmental organizations can provide you with a clear expression of the needs of local communities, and be a rich source of ideas for your deliberations.

13. It is States, however, who bear the primary and the ultimate responsibility for the development of their peoples. Governments, local and national, must identify the issues. Governments must support community groups. And Governments must carry out the crucial projects which strengthen infrastructure.

14. As we start down the road to Istanbul in 1996, the international community must travel together. Through this Preparatory Committee can come consensus on a global plan of action to sustain life and work in urban environments. The global plan of action will be a tangible way to implement the goals of Agenda 21 and the "Social Summit". It will incorporate recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, set for Cairo in

September 1994, and the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995. The global plan of action of the City Summit will draw strength from a decade of United Nations conferences. Its effects will be felt well into the twenty-first century.

15. We have two years in which to work. Much needs to be done. Every passing day increases the urgency of our task. Through your efforts, through the development of national capacity, we can win the battle for development.